Commissioned by Martyn Hill with Arts Council funds

PRAYERS FROM THE ARK

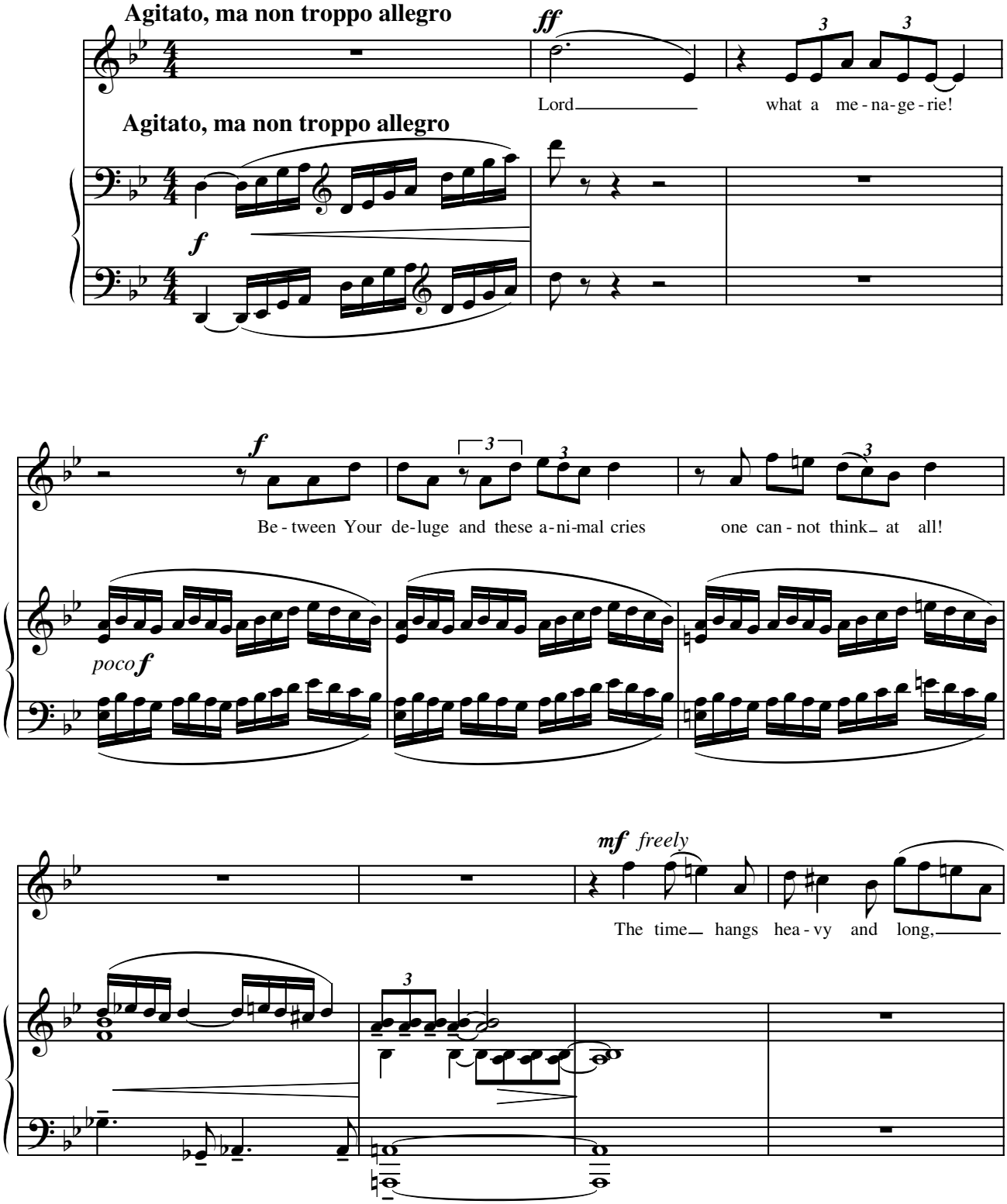
for Tenor or Soprano and Piano

transposed version*

Poems by Carmen Bernos de Gastold,
translated from the French
by Anthony Hedges.

Anthony Hedges

1. NOAH'S PRAYER



* *The original settings were a tone higher*

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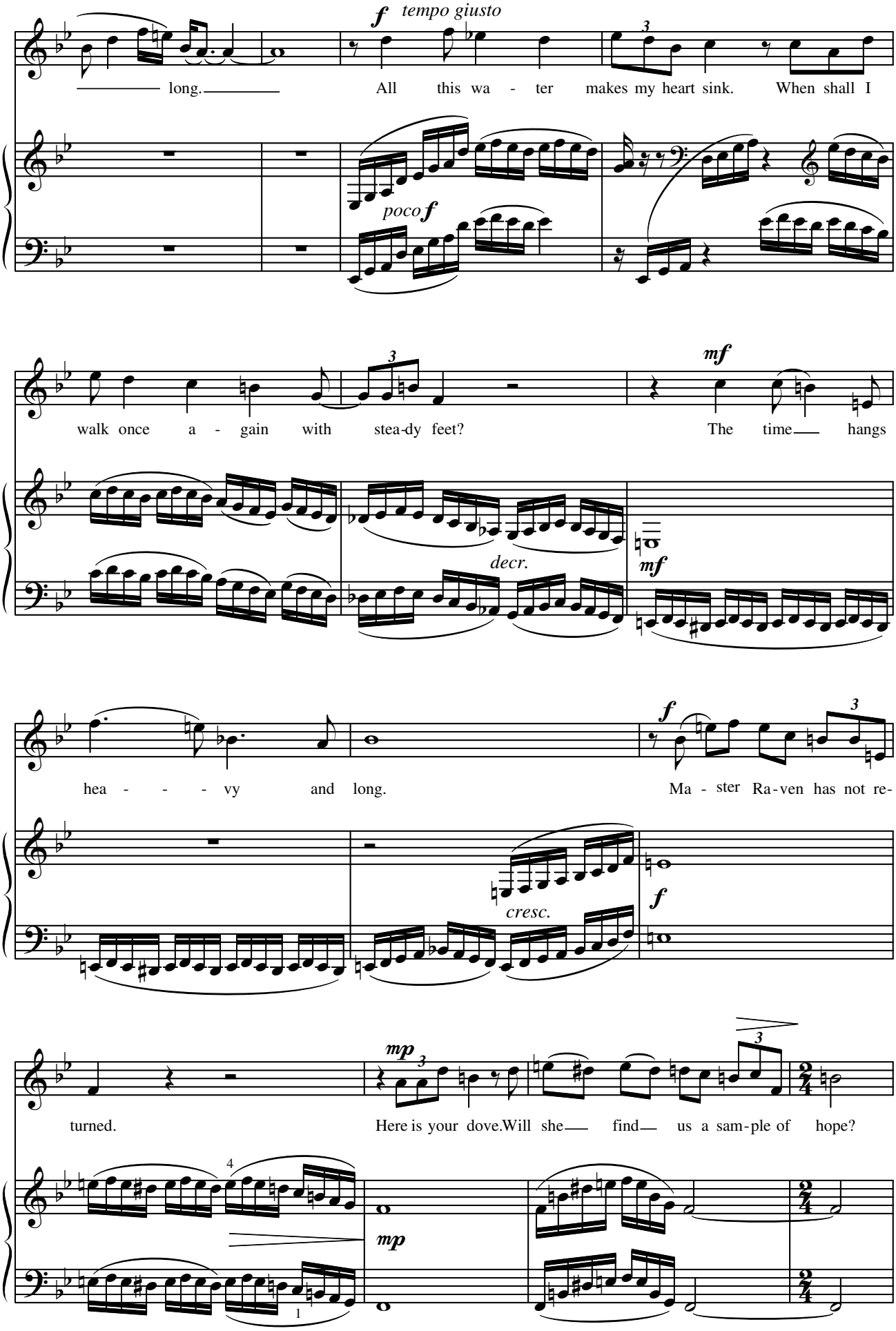
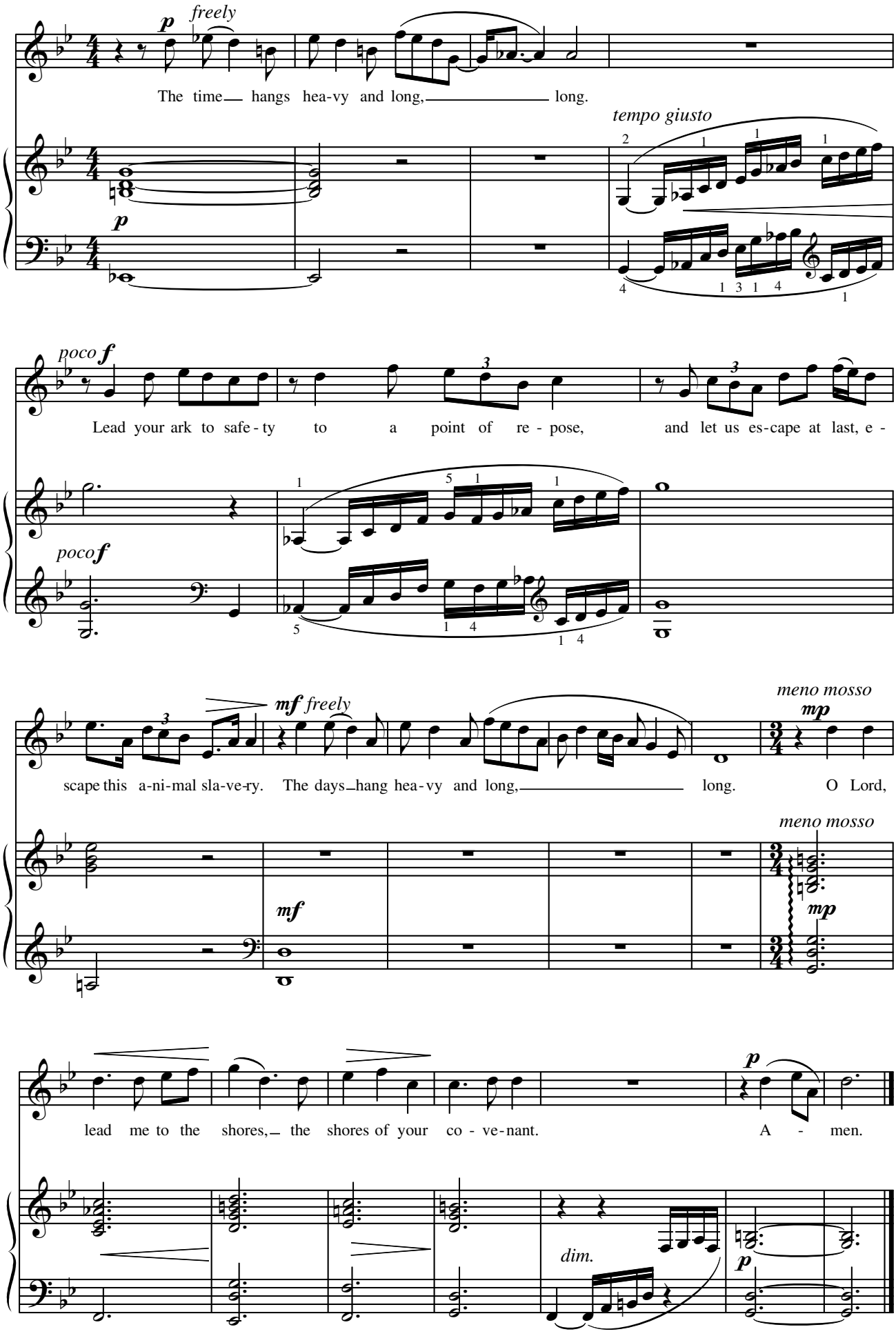
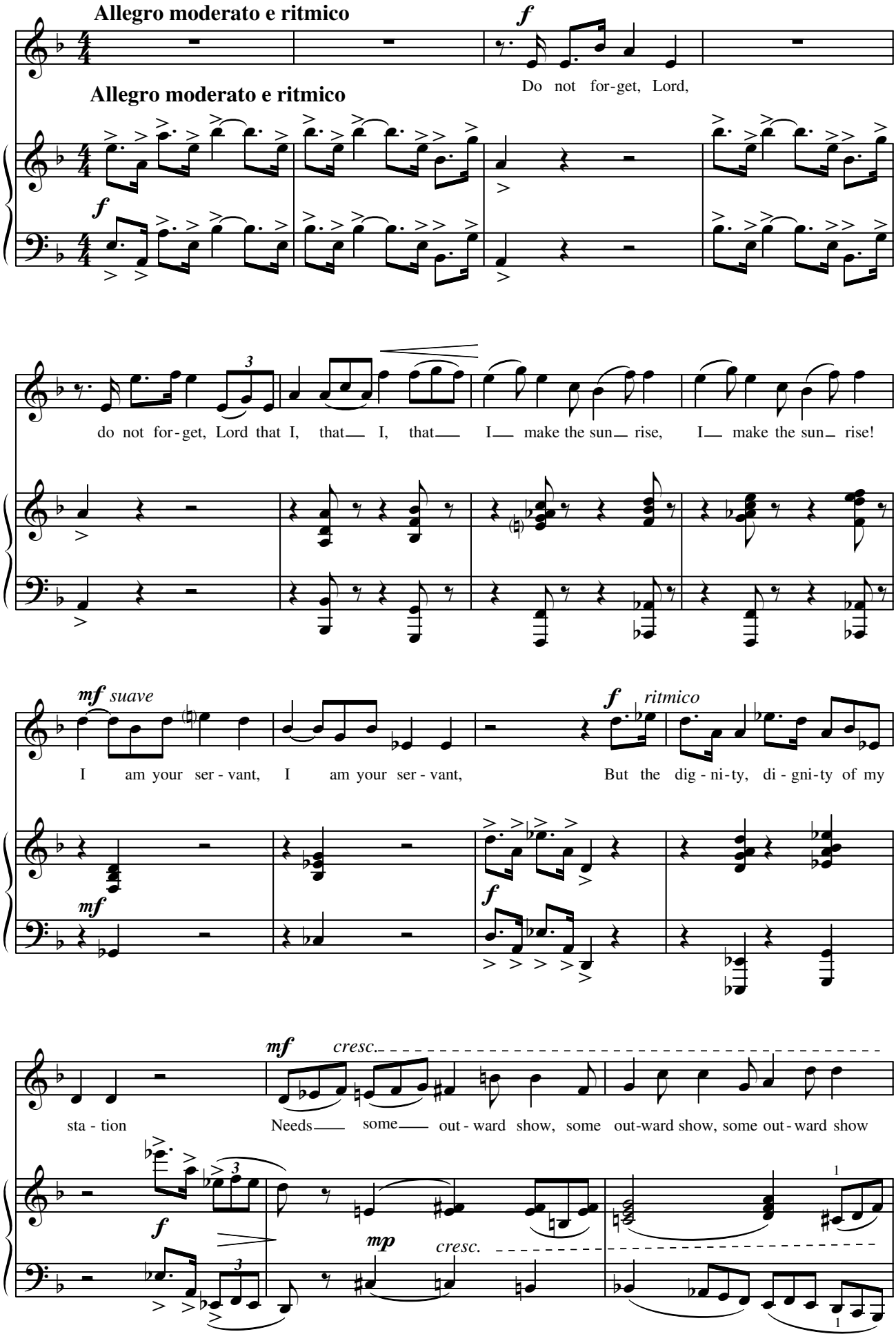
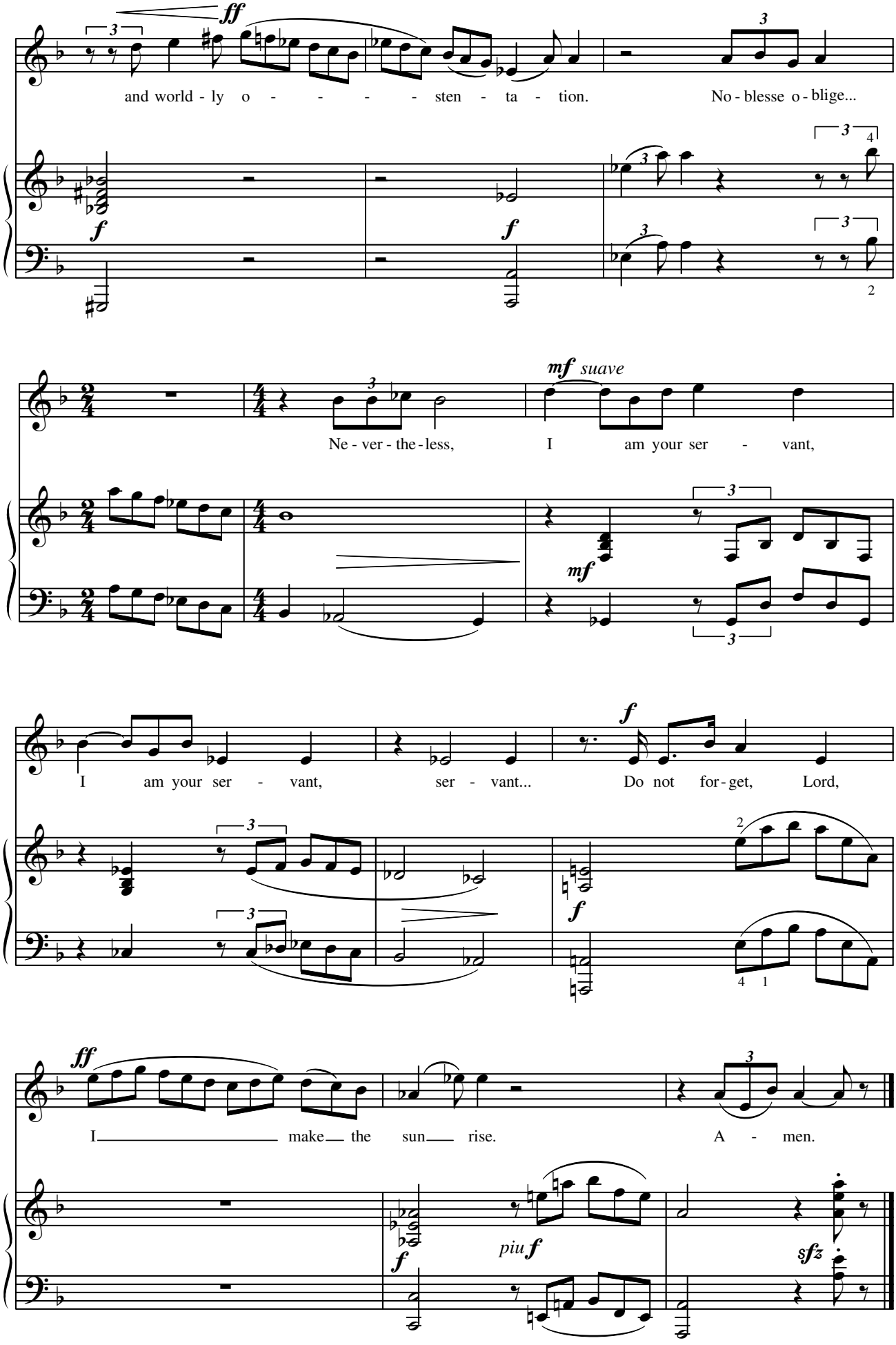

f tempo giusto
long.
All this wa - ter makes my heart sink. When shall I
poco f
walk once a - gain with stea-dy feet?
mf
The time hangs
decr.
mf
hea - - - vy and long.
Ma - ster Ra-ven has not re-
f
cresc.
f
turned.
mp
Here is your dove.Will she find us a sam-ple of hope?
mp

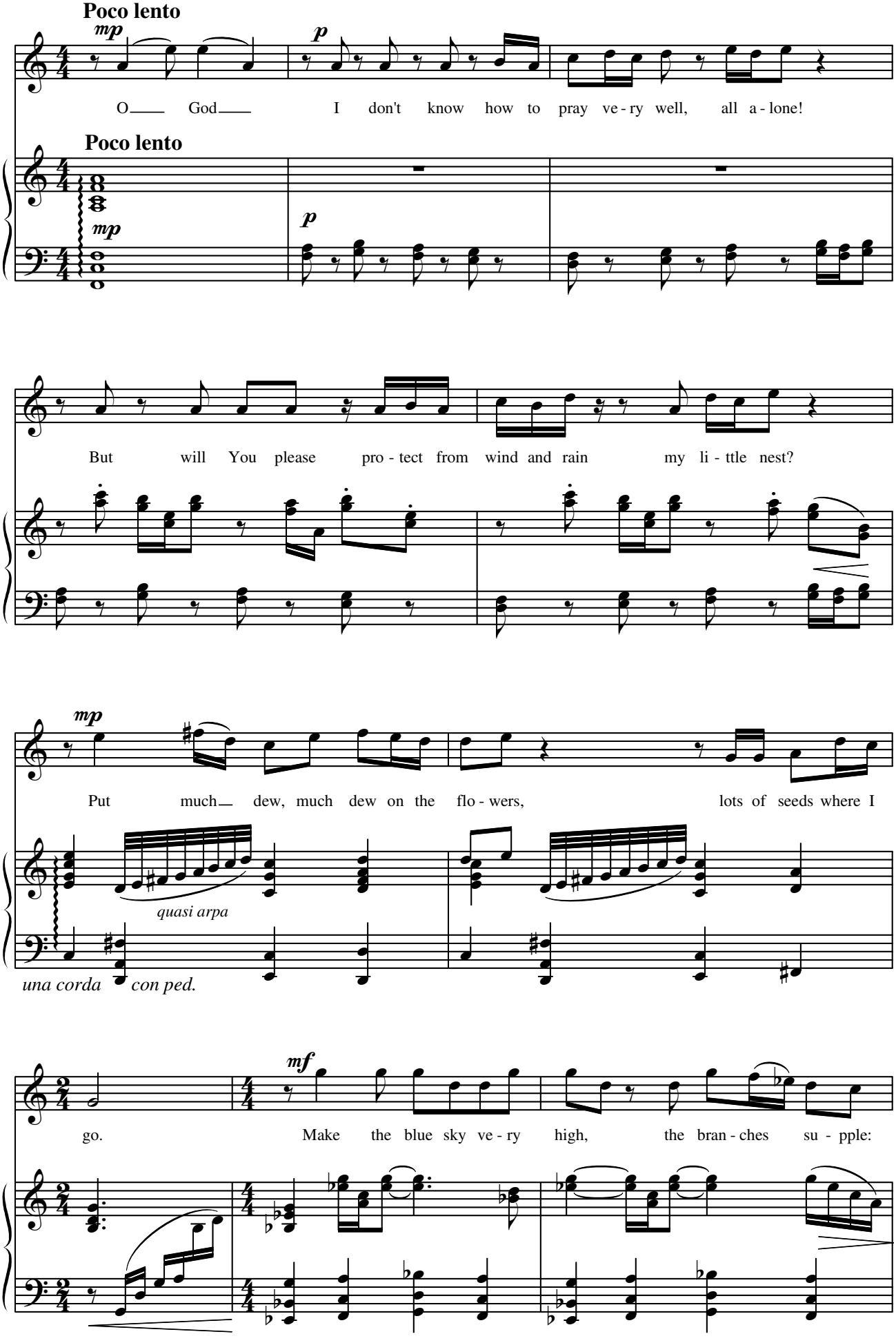

p freely
The time hangs hea-vy and long, long.
tempo giusto
p
poco f
Lead your ark to safe - ty to a point of re - pose, and let us es-cape at last, e -
poco f
mf freely
meno mosso
mp
scape this a-ni-mal sla-ve-ry. The days hang hea-vy and long, long. O Lord,
meno mosso
mf
mp
p
lead me to the shores, the shores of your co - ve-nant. A - men.
dim.
p

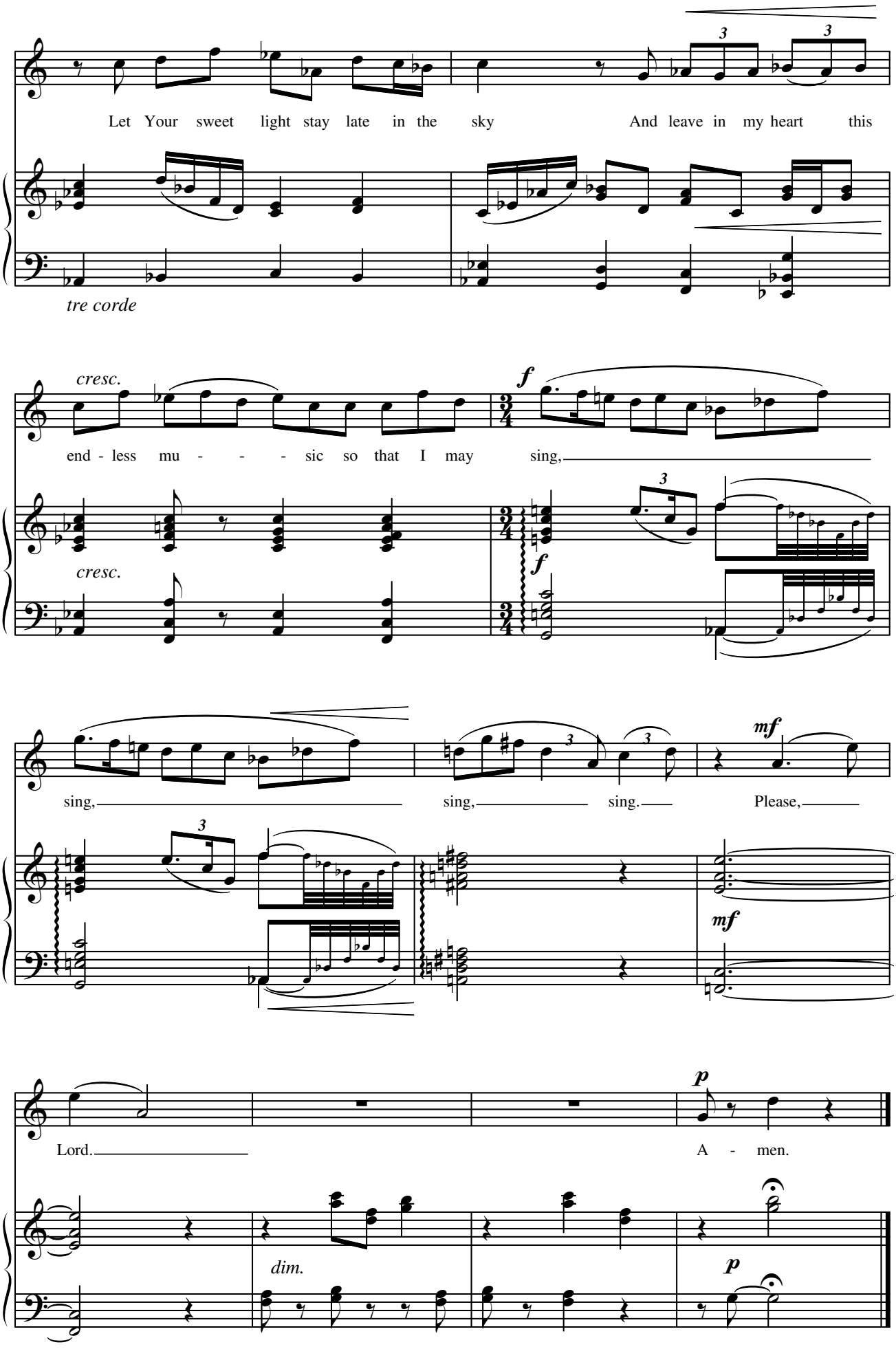
2. THE PRAYER OF THE COCK



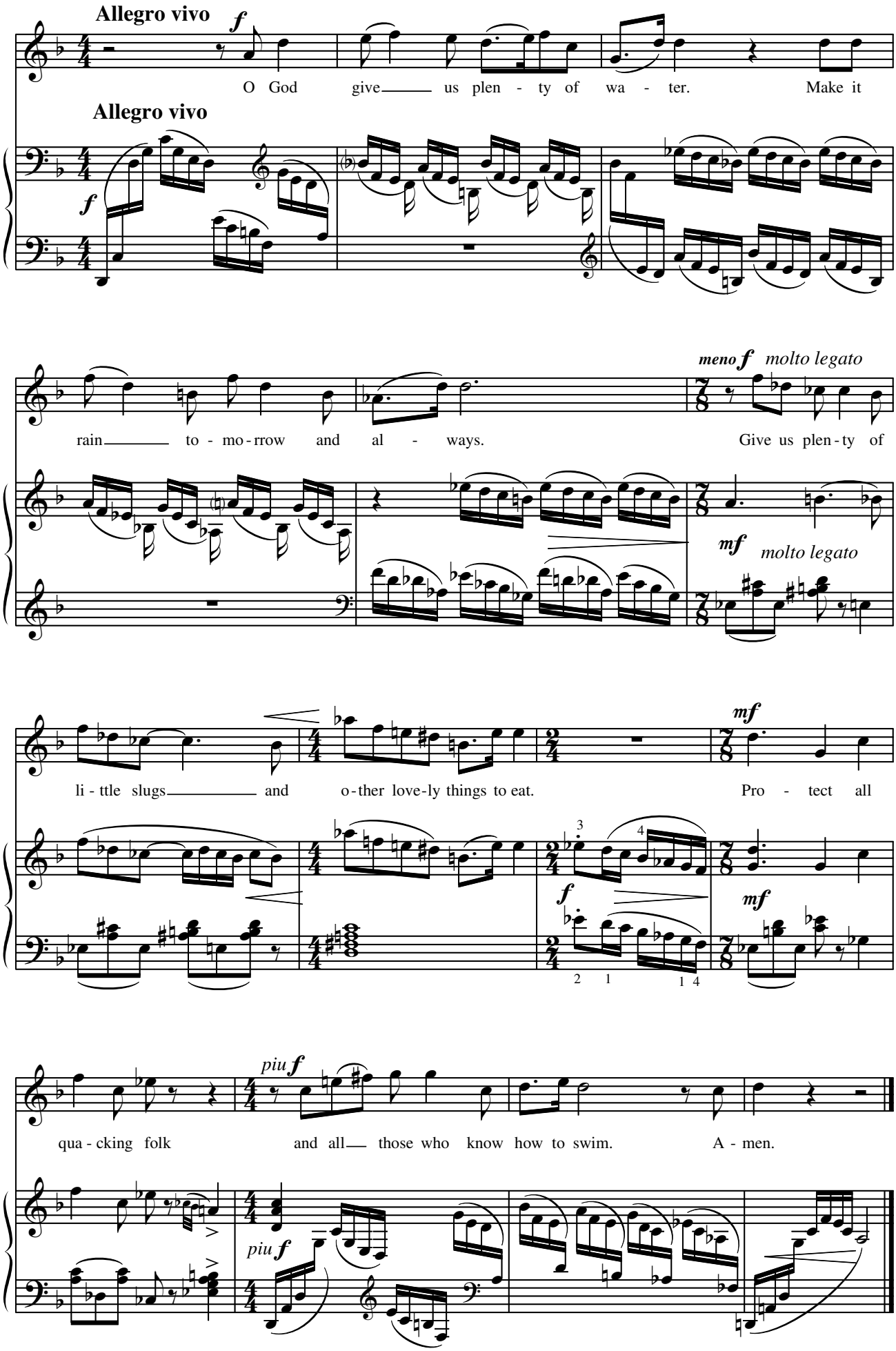

ff
and world - ly o - - - - - sten - ta - tion.
No - blesse o - blige...
f
f
mf suave
Ne - ver - the - less,
I am your ser - vant,
mf
I am your ser - vant,
ser - vant...
Do not for - get, Lord,
f
f
ff
I make the sun rise.
A - men.
piu f
f
sfz

3. THE PRAYER OF THE LITTLE BIRD

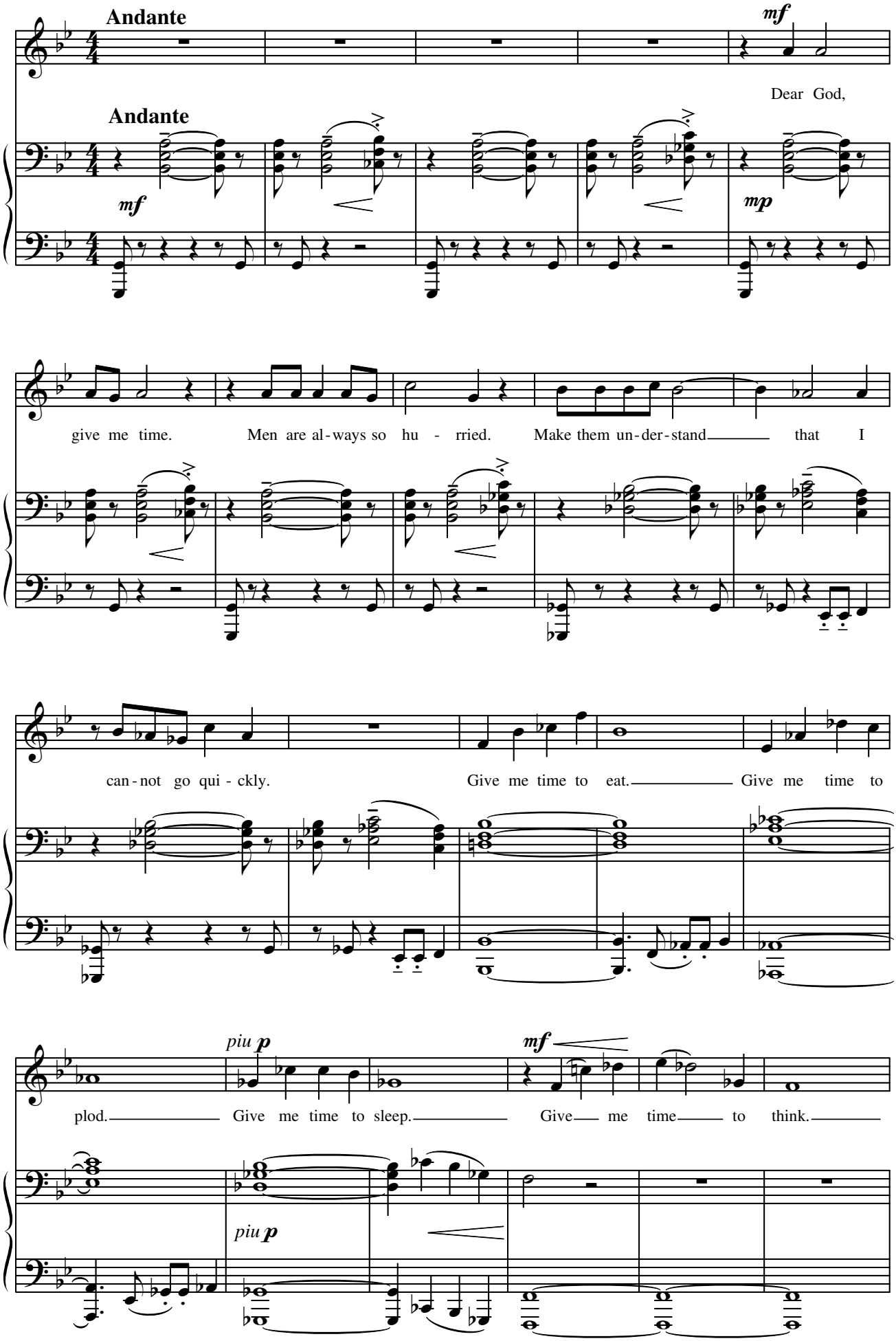


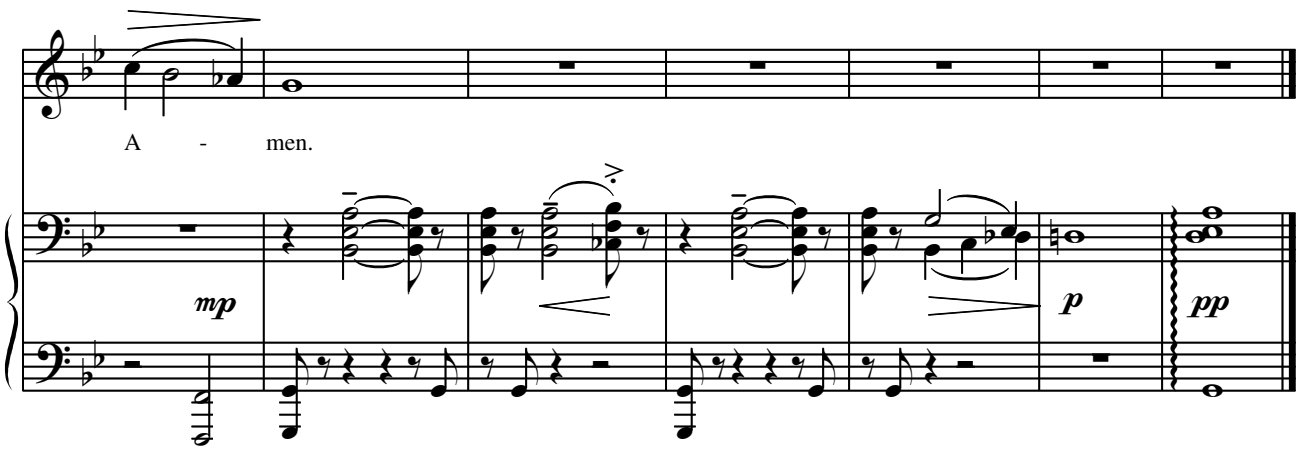

Let Your sweet light stay late in the sky And leave in my heart this
tre corde
cresc.
end - less mu - - - sic so that I may sing,
cresc.
sing, sing, sing. Please,
Lord. A - men.
dim.

4. THE PRAYER OF THE LITTLE DUCKS

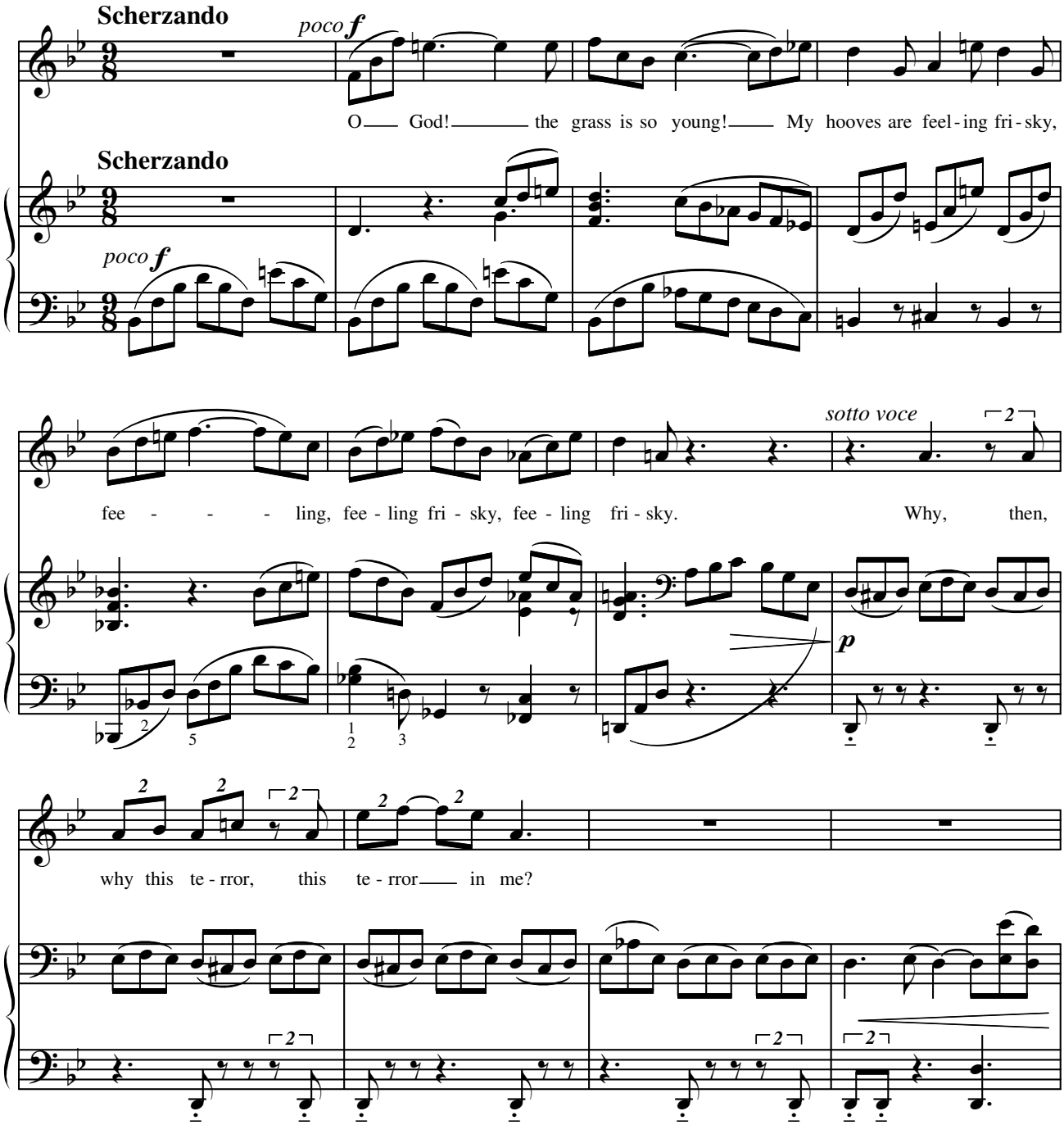


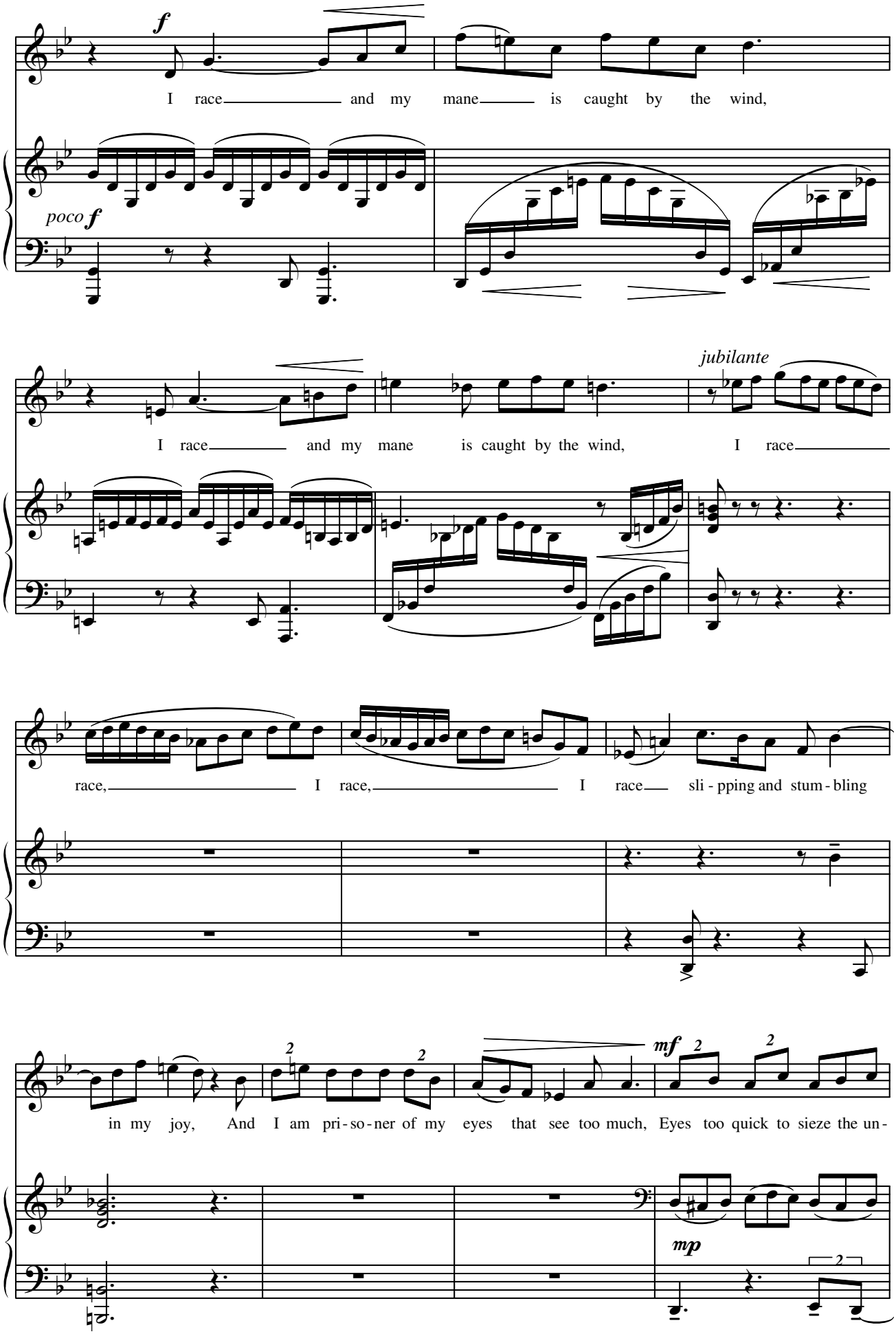
5. THE PRAYER OF THE OX

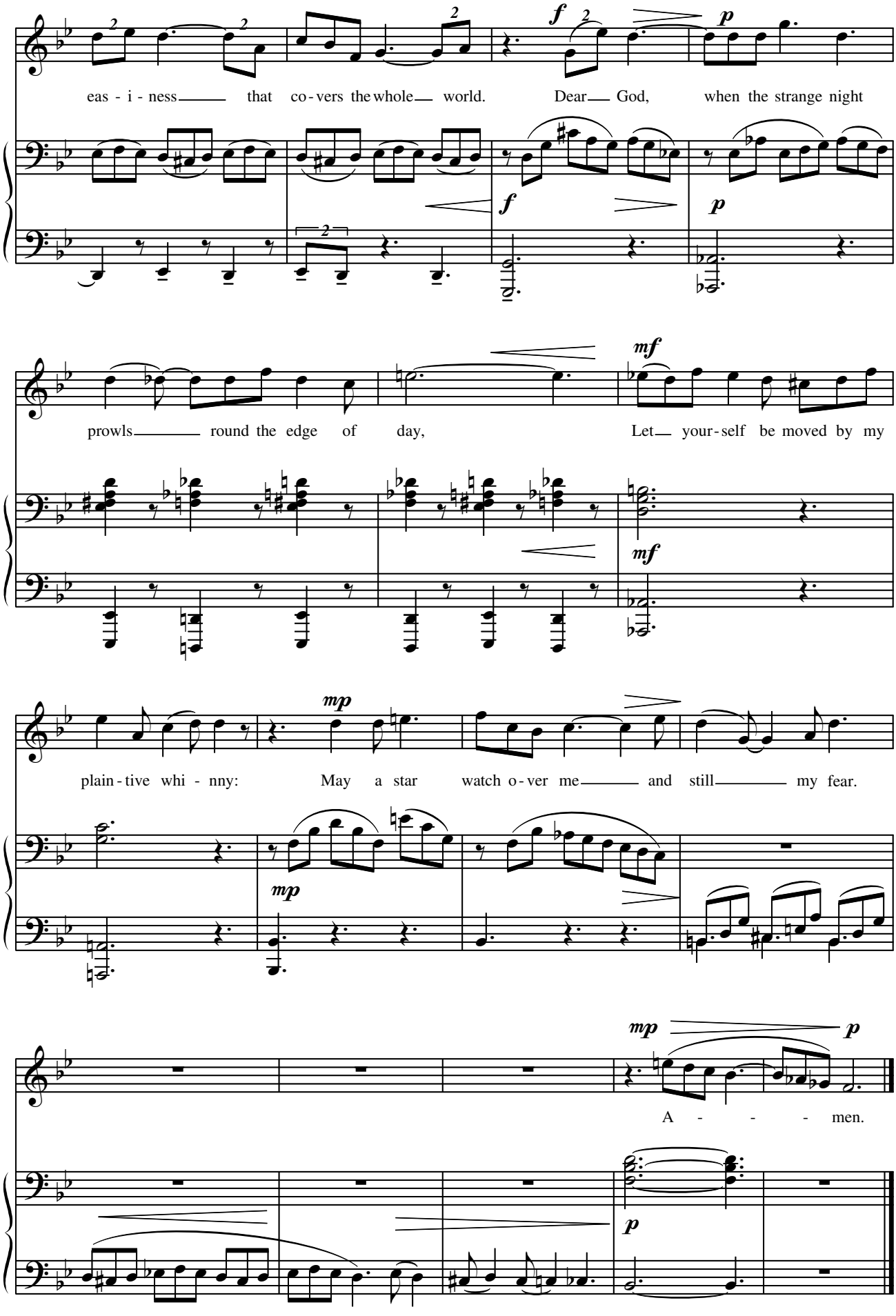




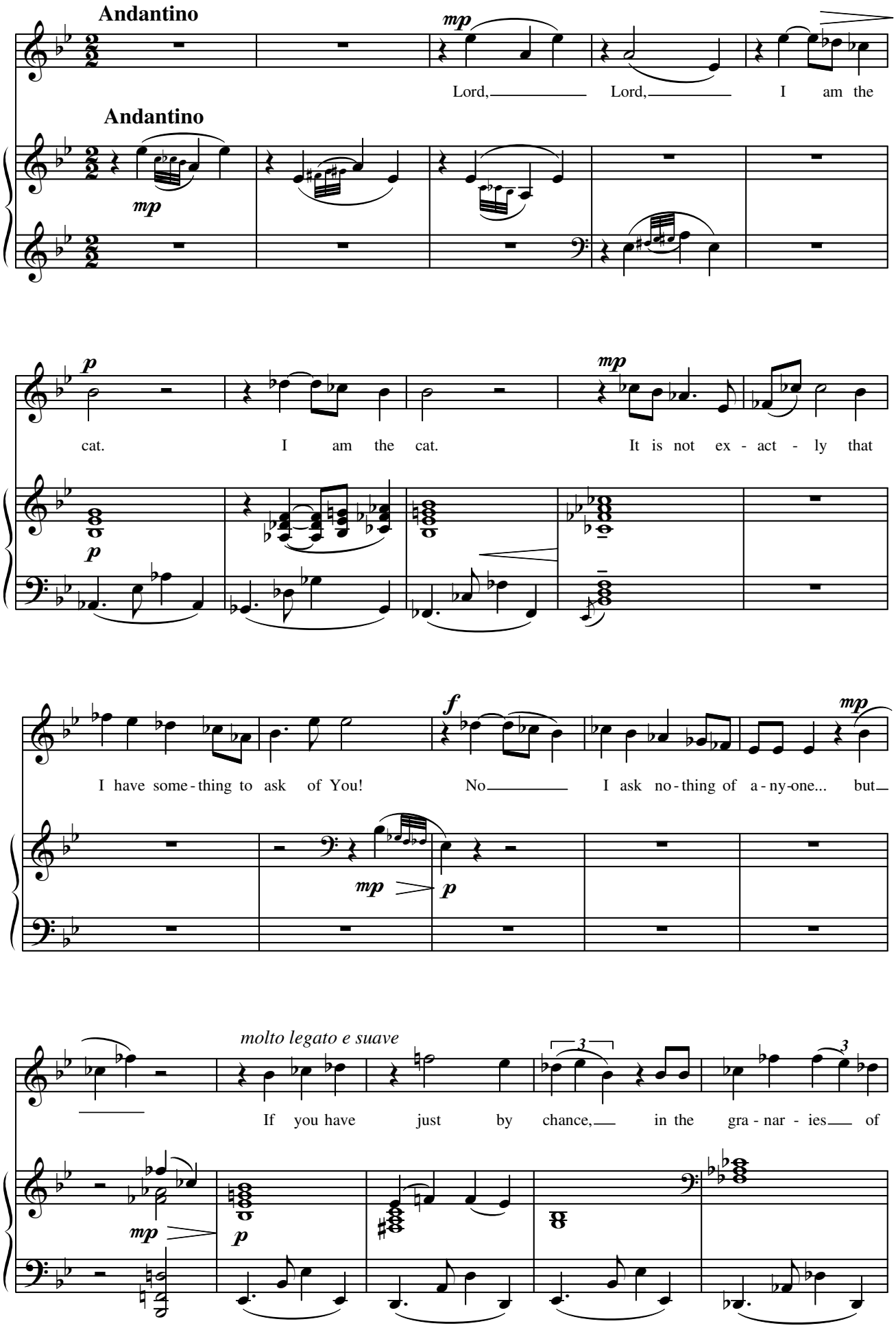
6. THE PRAYER OF THE FOAL

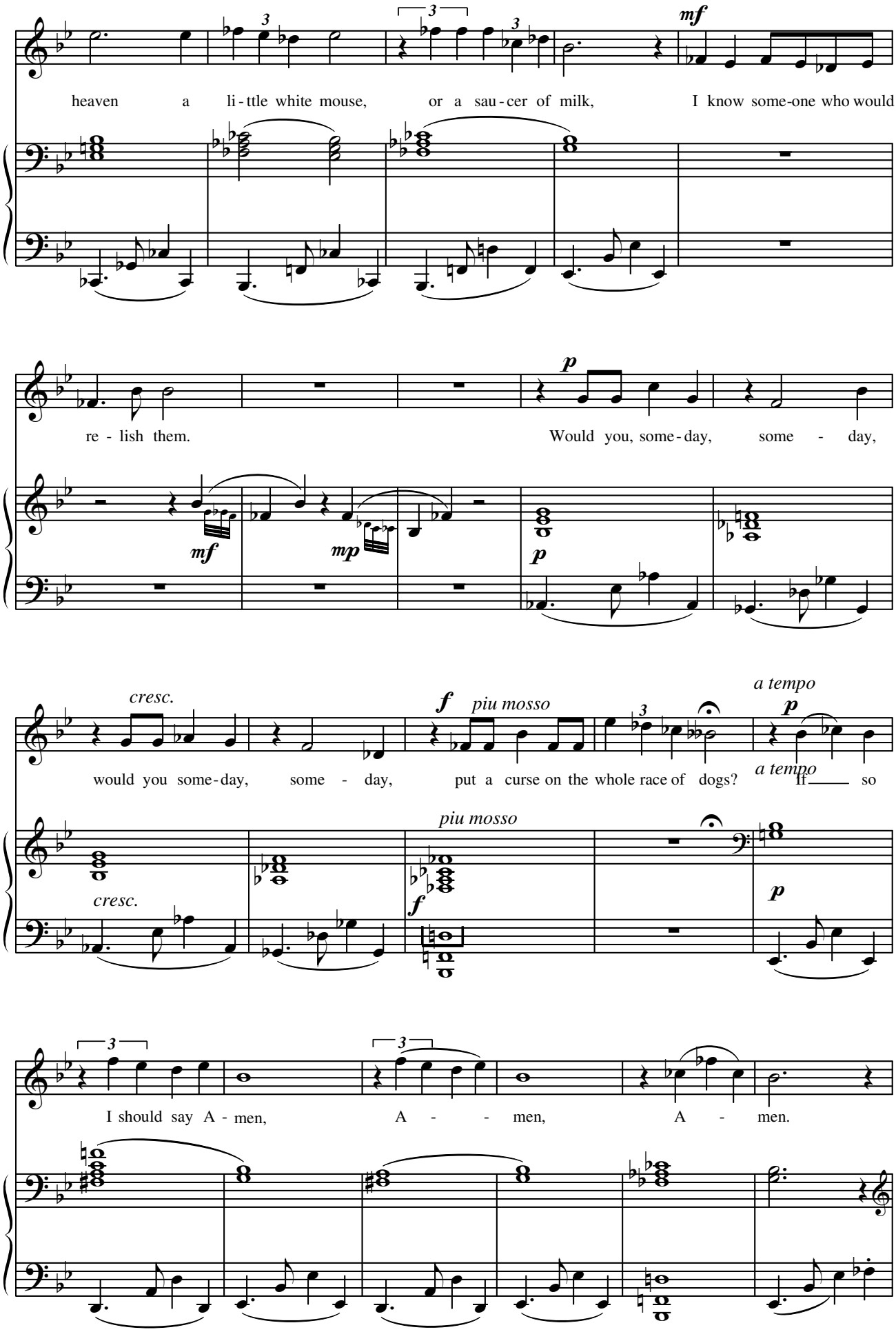


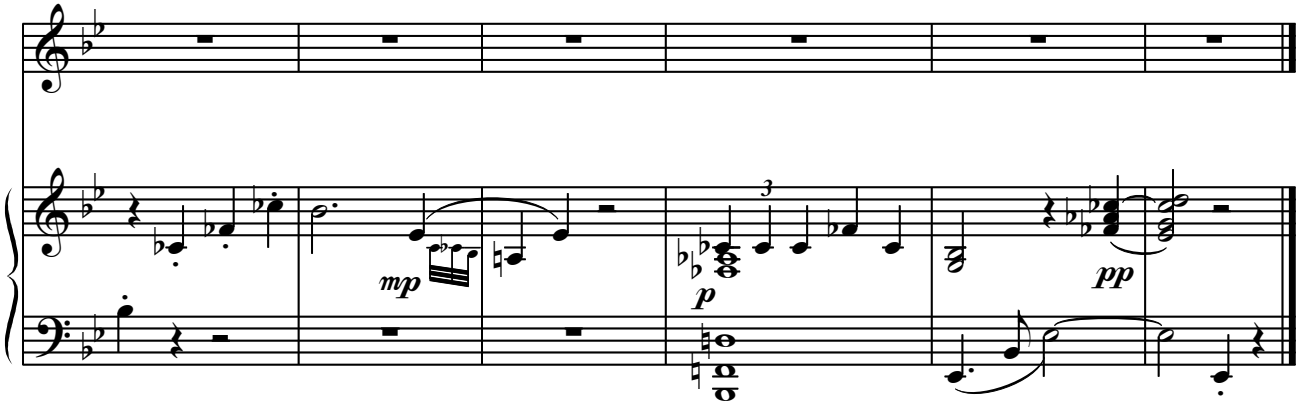

f
I race and my mane is caught by the wind,
poco f
jubilante
I race and my mane is caught by the wind, I race
race, I race, I race sli - pping and stum - bling
in my joy, And I am pri - so - ner of my eyes that see too much, Eyes too quick to sieze the un -
mf
mp


eas - i - ness that co - vers the whole world. Dear God, when the strange night
prowls round the edge of day, Let your - self be moved by my
plain - tive whi - nny: May a star watch o - ver me and still my fear.
A - - - men.

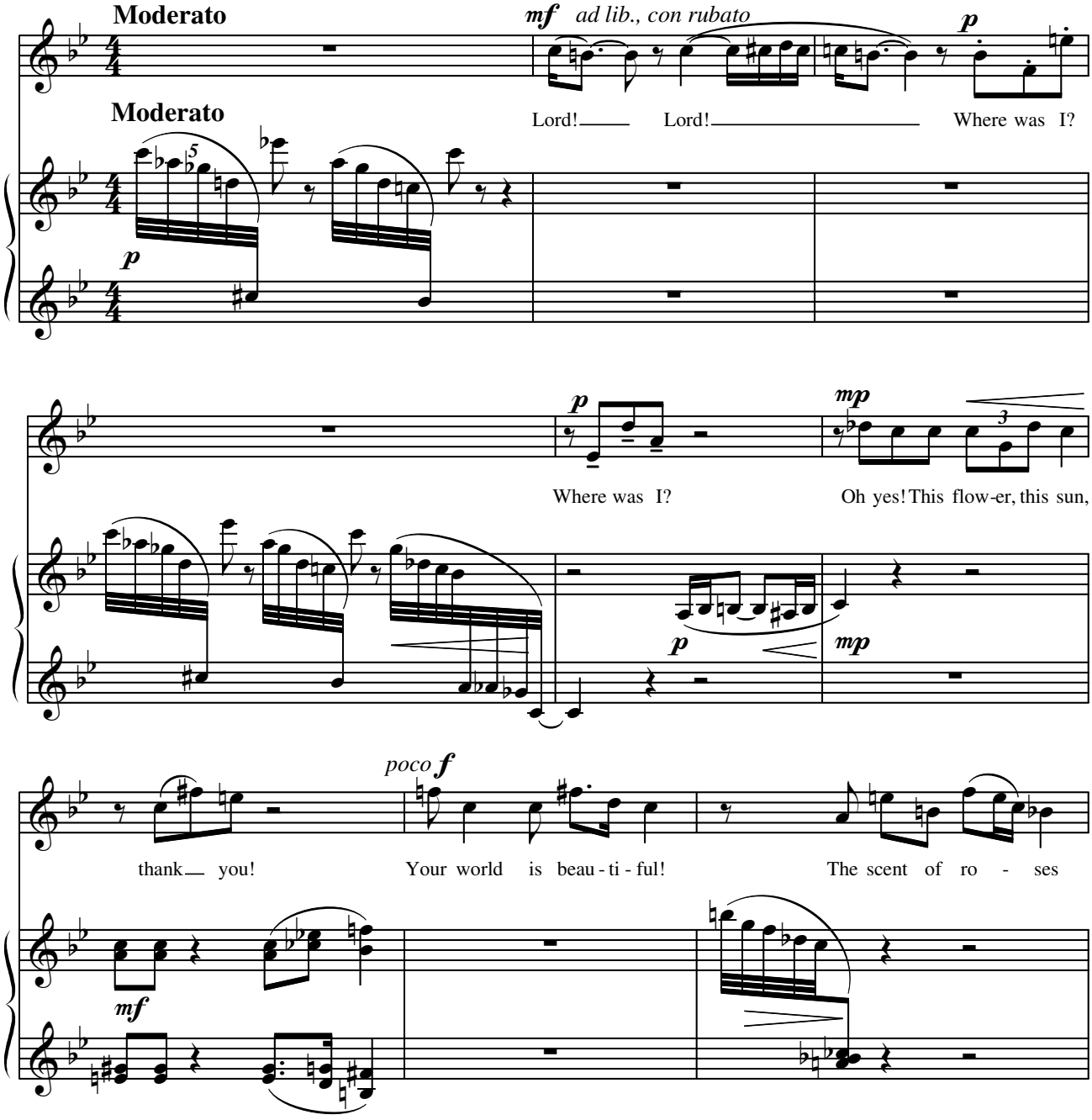
7. THE PRAYER OF THE CAT

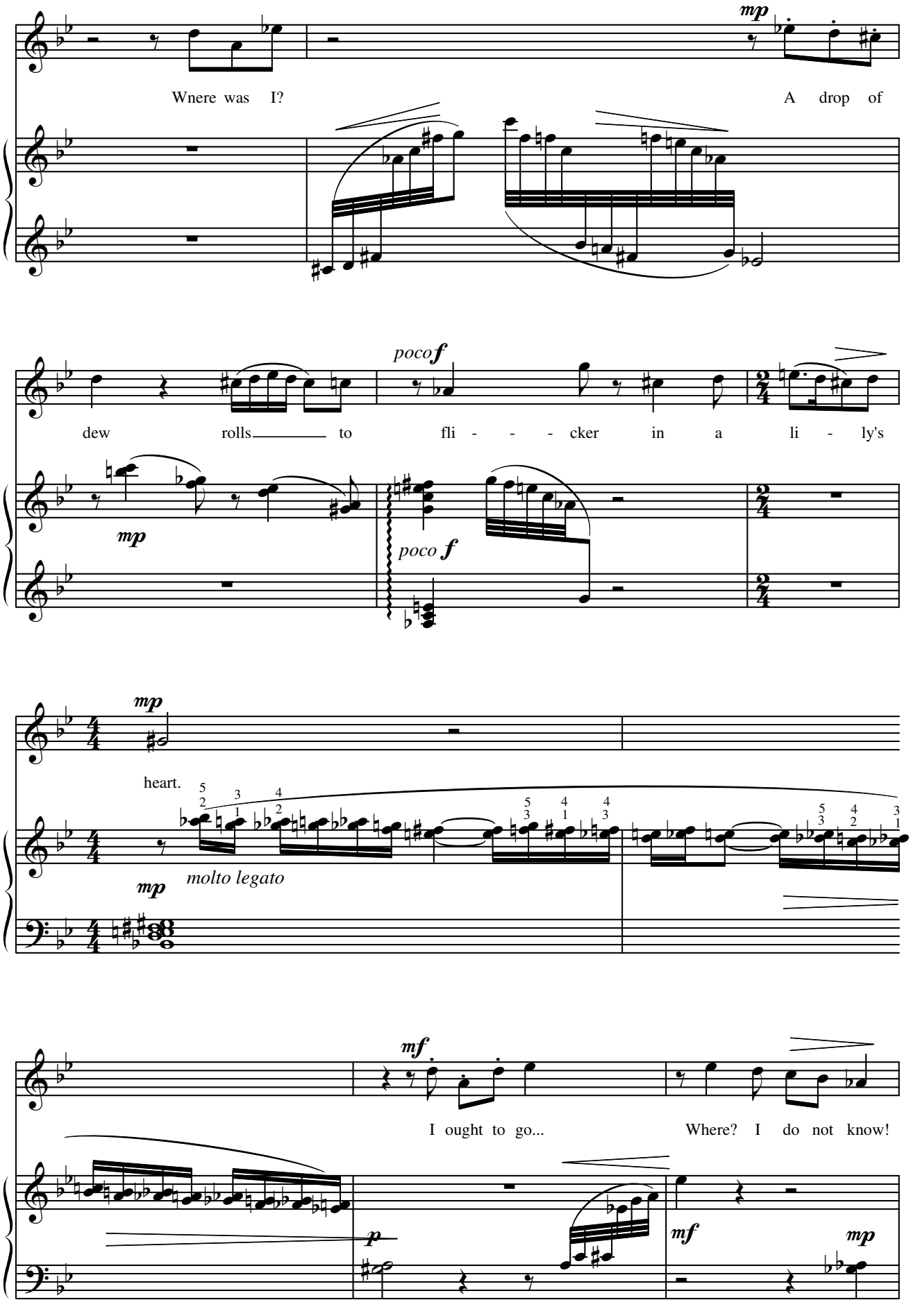


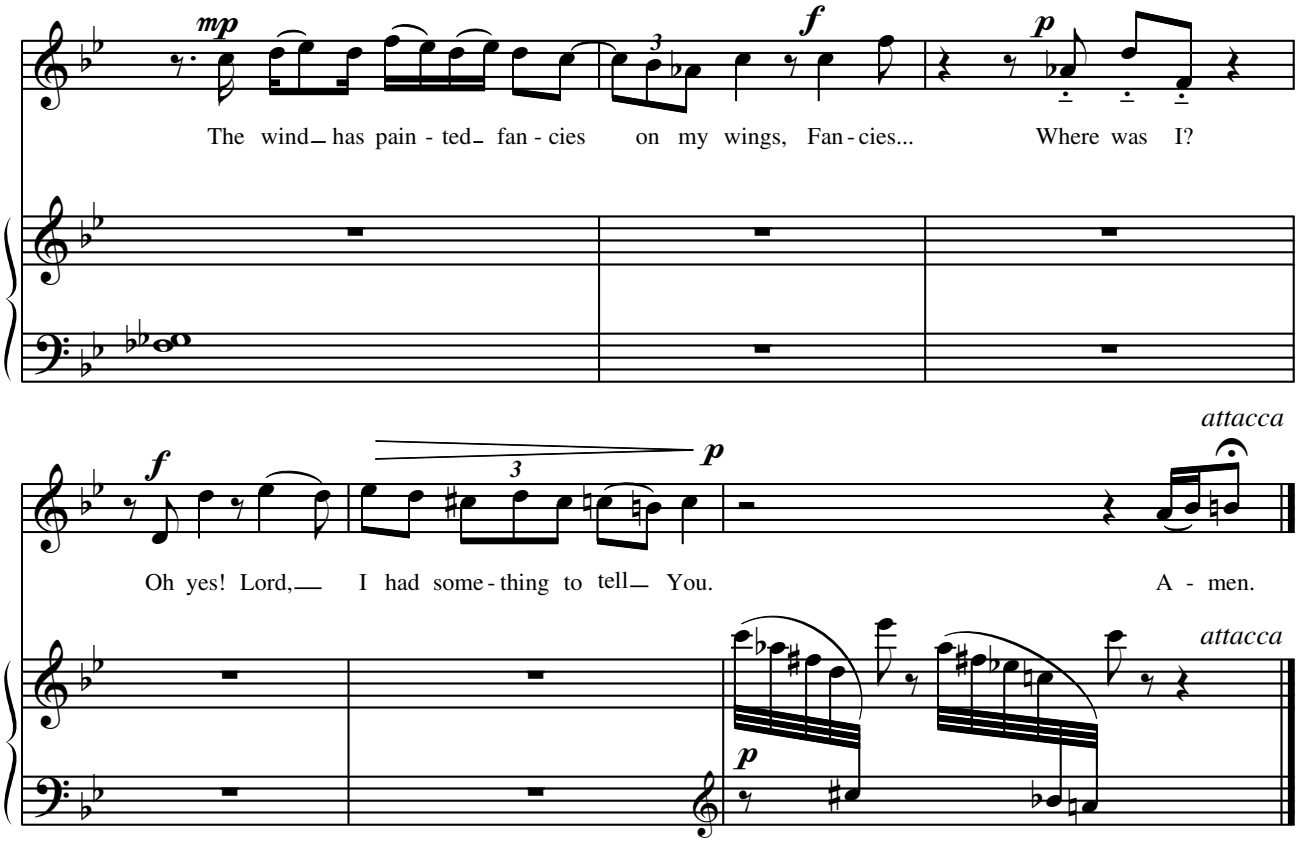

mf
heaven a li - ttle white mouse, or a sau - cer of milk, I know some-one who would
p
re - lish them. Would you, some - day, some - day,
mf
mp
p
cresc.
f piu mosso
a tempo
p
would you some - day, some - day, put a curse on the whole race of dogs? If so
a tempo
piu mosso
cresc.
f
p
I should say A - men, A - - men, A - men.



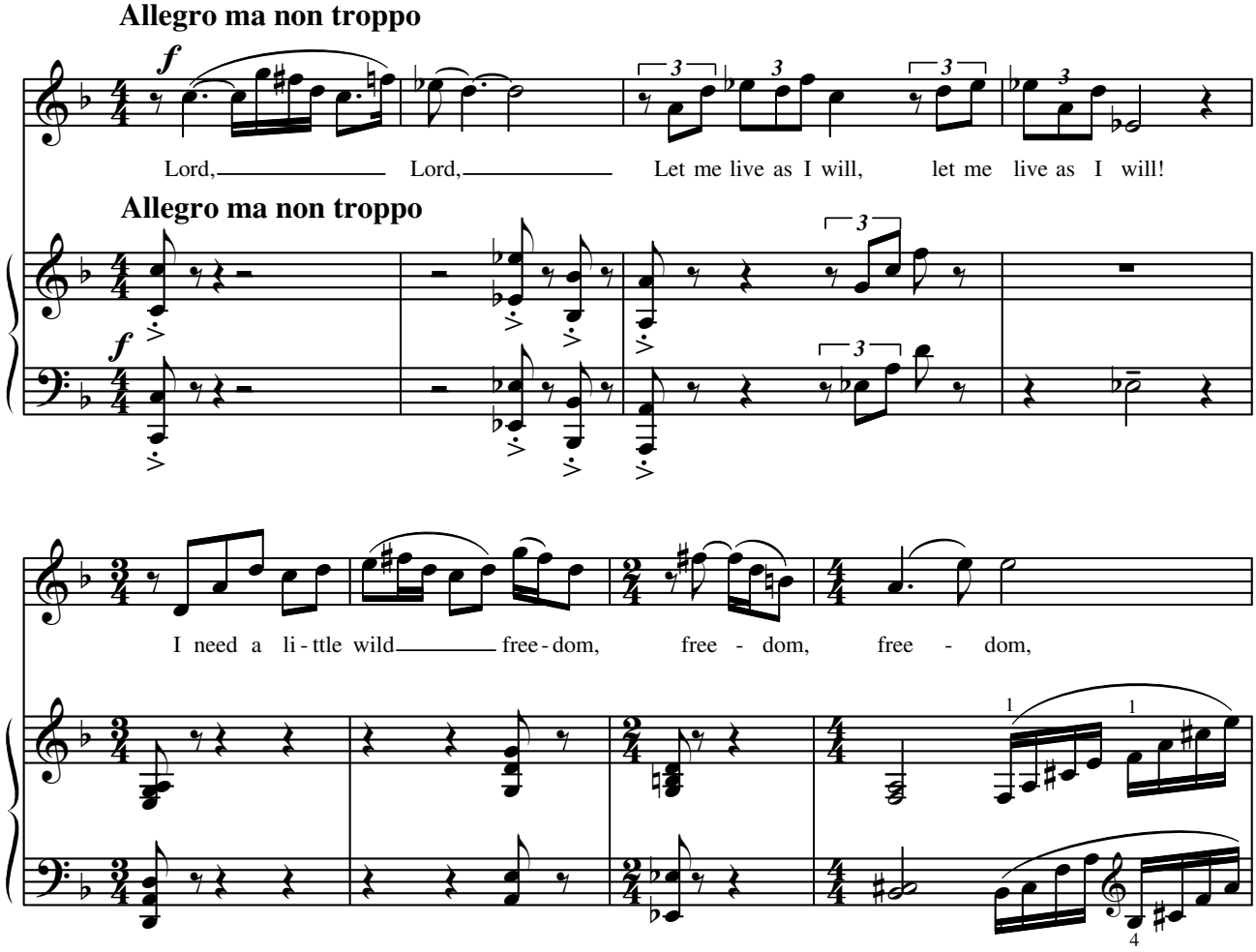
8. THE PRAYER OF THE BUTTERFLY

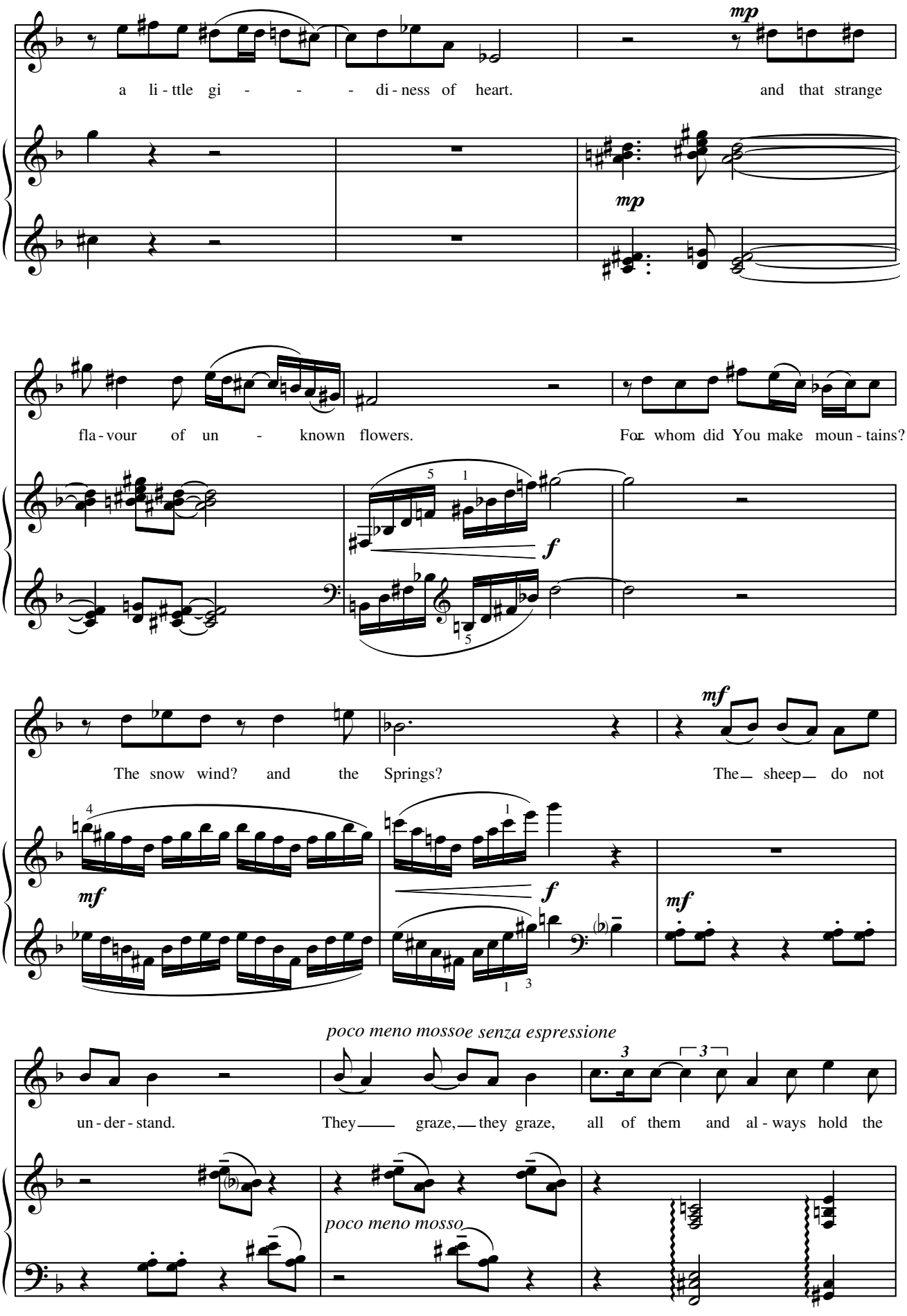


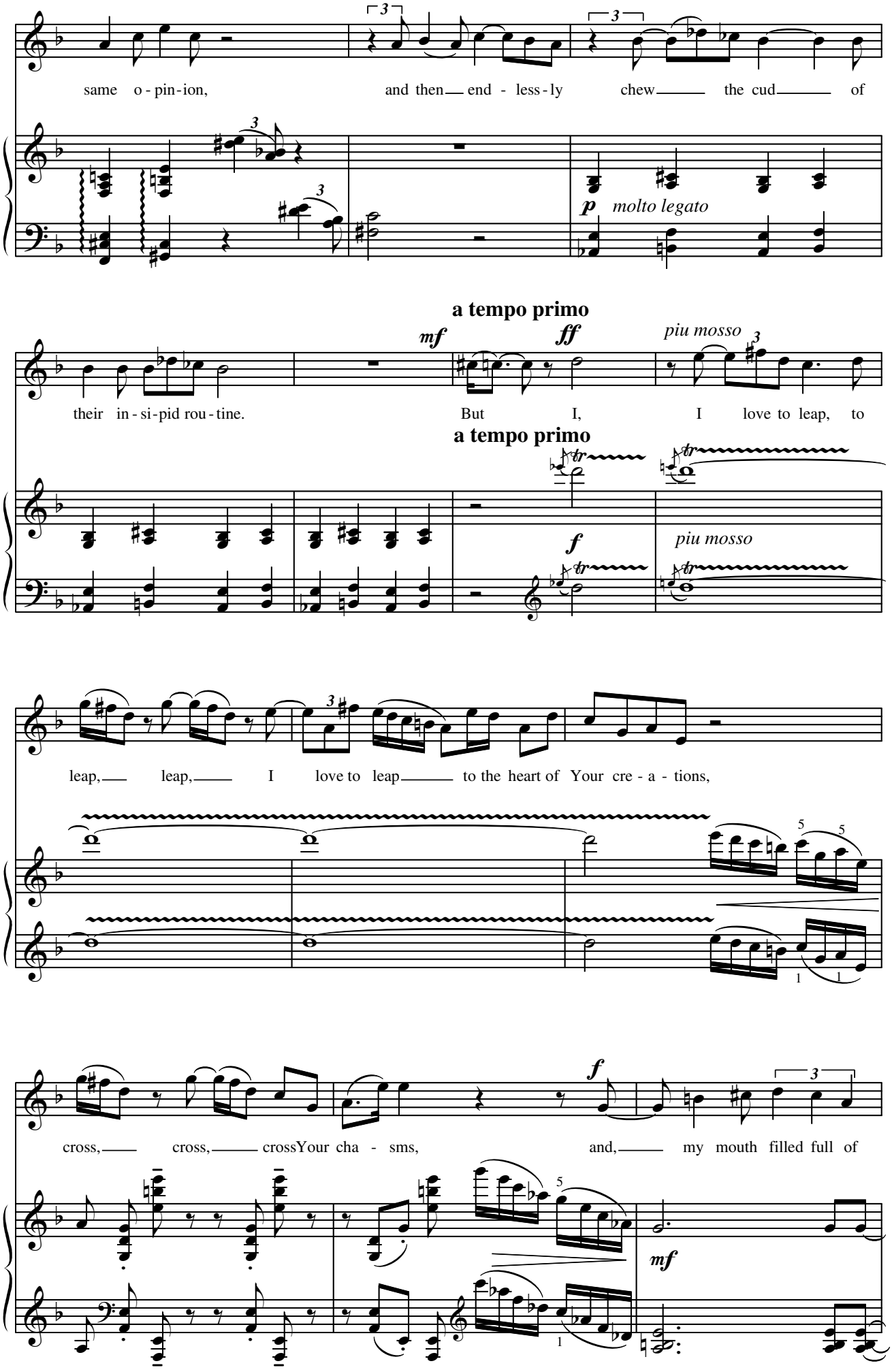

mp
Wnere was I?
A drop of
poco f
dew rolls to fli - - - cker in a li - ly's
mp
poco f
mp
heart.
molto legato
mp
mf
I ought to go...
Where? I do not know!
p
mf
mp

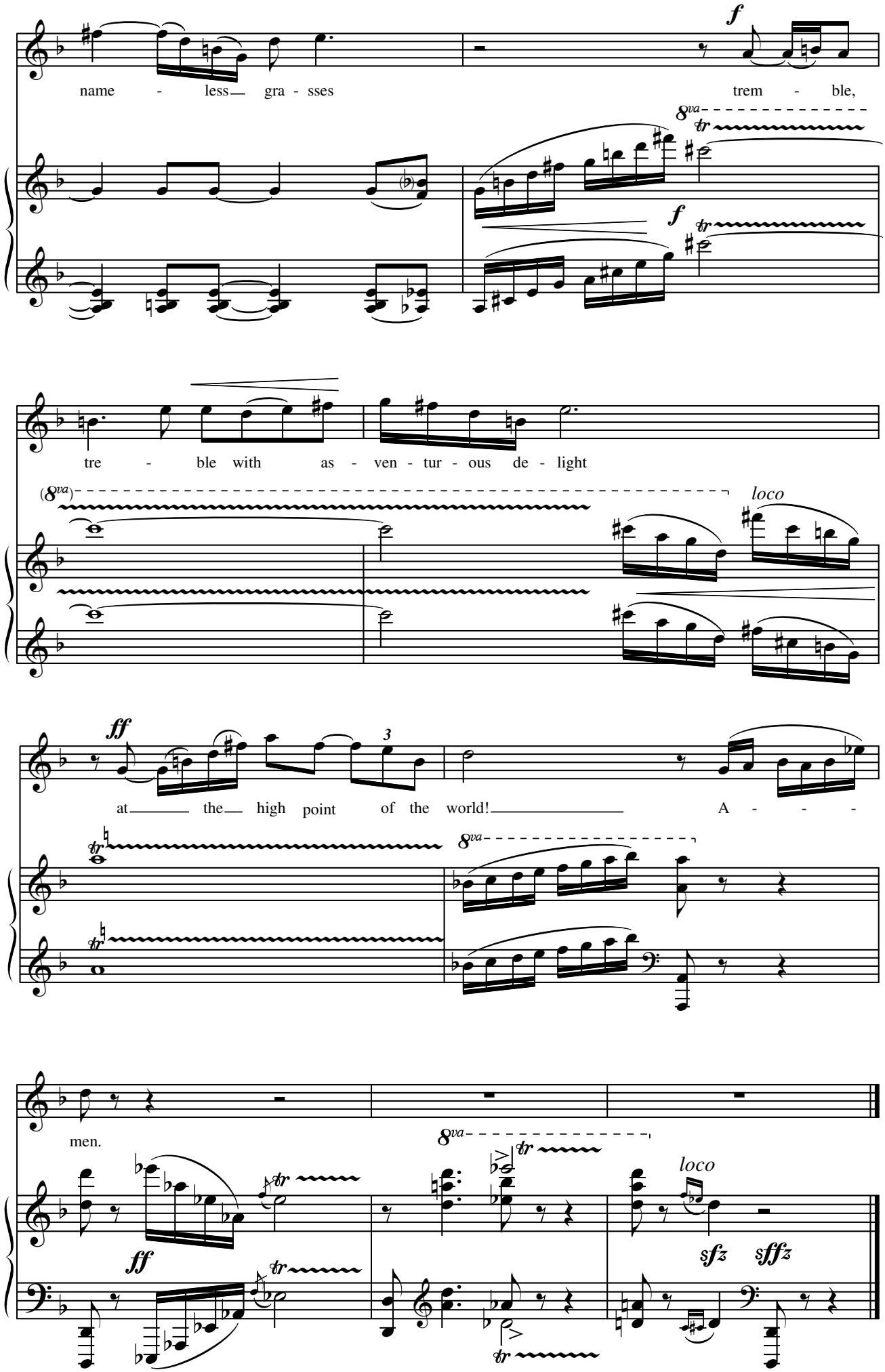


9. THE PRAYER OF THE GOAT




mp
a li - ttle gi - - - di - ness of heart.
and that strange
mp
fla - vour of un - known flowers.
For whom did You make moun - tains?
f
The snow wind? and the Springs?
mf
The sheep do not
mf
f
mf
poco meno mossoe senza espressione
un - der - stand.
They graze, they graze, all of them and al - ways hold the
poco meno mosso


same o - pin - ion,
and then end - less - ly
chew the cud of
p molto legato
a tempo primo
mf
ff
piu mosso
their in - si - pid rou - tine.
But I,
I love to leap, to
a tempo primo
f
piu mosso
leap, leap, I love to leap to the heart of Your cre - a - tions,
cross, cross, crossYour cha - sms,
and, my mouth filled full of
f
mf


f
name - less gra - sses
trem - ble,
8va
tr
f
tr
tre - ble with as - ven - tur - ous de - light
(8va)
loco
ff
3
at the high point of the world!
A - - -
tr
8va
men.
8va
tr
loco
ff
tr
sfz
sffz
tr